GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2553
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
VISIT OF HIGH POWER DELEGATION
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Delegation visited Moscow to explore Russia`s fast growing and potentially huge market for telecommunications and information technologies;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with Russian counterpart in this regard;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the enclosed annexure.

(c) There was a very fruitful meeting between the two sides at Minister`s level where senior officials from both sides were present. During the above discussions, the following points emerged:

i) There is great potential for cooperation between India and Russia in the field of Communications and Information Technology.

ii) There are lot of opportunities for cooperation in the field of distance education, telemedicine and e-commerce.

iii) There is ample scope for cooperation between the two countries for developing Information and Telecom Infrastructure in rural areas.

iv) There is a need for further cooperation to develop regulatory structures and provision of universal services.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Annexure

1. Meting with Dy. Minister of Information Technology

The delegation led by Chairman, TC had a meeting with the Dy. Minister of IT, Mr. Volokin.He is also the Co- Chairman of Working Group of Information Technology. Russian side appreciated the work done by Indian side in software field and desired cooperation in IT field.

2. Meeting with Dy. Minister of Communications :

The Chairman, TC and Member (Technology) called on the Russian Minister Mr. Pavlenko Mr. Pavienko. 1sDy Minister of Communications of Russian Federation .The Russian side intimated that the Ministry determines Scientific Policies, accords approval to telecom products and ensures inter consistency of networks. It fixes tariffs for 89 state owned companies but does not interfere with Private operators numbering 4500. The 89 state owned companies are going to be restructured into 7 federal regional companies. The Russian Federation plans to increase tele-density from 25 to 35 percent and next round of disinvestments are expected in 2003. Indian side also shared the state of Telecommunications in India and its growth plans.

3. Meeting with Minister of Communications and informatization.

A meeting was held between Hon. MOC, IT and PA, Mr. Pramod Mahajan with H.E. Mr. L.D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Informatization of Russian Federation.

4. The need to sign a separate MOU on Telecommunications was recognized.Hon ,MOC , IT and PA extended and invitation to his counterpart to visit India sometime, which was accepted.

5. Meeting with Dy. Chairman of of RF.

Hon`ble MOC, IT and PA,Mr.. Pramod Mahajan called on H.E. Mr. Klebanoy, Dy Chairman of Russian FederationRussian side intimated that there is greater need for cooperation between the two countries. The Indian companies should participate in their tender for supply of computers. Russia has technology for production of semi-conductors and wanted to join hand with India for joint production, which was welcomed by Hon . Minister of Communications & Information Technology. Russian side also proposed greater cooperation in the field of satellite technology to share its progress.